

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

The "Overmountain Men" of Modern Times

One cannot live in the history-laden thirteen East Coast states which formed the cradle of America's history without having some of that history rub off on them. Case in point—King's Mountain National Military Park in South Carolina, not far from Shelby, NC. In the American Revolutionary War, British Major Patrick Ferguson offended the sensibility of some of the settlers on the other side of the Blue Ridge in Tennessee by suggesting that as soon as he put to rest the rebellious folks on the Carolina Piedmont, he'd cross over the mountains and "Lay waste to their country with fire and sword" using Loyalist Militiamen under his command. Rather than let Ferguson come to them, the Overmountain Men came to Ferguson, gathering countless frontiersmen as they came and confronted him at King's Mountain. In the ensuing battle which was remarkably short, the Patriots handily defeated Ferguson's Loyalist Militiamen, killing or wounding over 400 and taking over 660 prisoners while suffering less than 90 killed and wounded from their ranks.

In 2002, eight Overmountain Men from Knoxville and environs crossed over again to the Carolina Piedmont. But, this time their mission was far

W4VHF	Ted Goldthorpe	President
AD4IE	Paul Ponak	Vice-Pres.
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
W3OA	Dick Williams	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	Cluster Mgr.- North Area
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

more benign. They came as friends to visit the Charlotte Hamfest and to "break bread" with members of the Carolina DX Association. The group became affectionately known as "The Tennessee 8" even though the numbers visiting Charlotte's Hamfest in recent years has grown to as many as twenty-two (that's 22!) as spouses and new Overmountain Men have joined the trek. The camaraderie has continued to grow with the numbers involved.

When a few of the Tennessee 8 decided to launch an event they named SEDCO five years ago, CDXA decided that it was high time the climb over the Blue Ridge should originate from the south side of the mountains and end in Pigeon Forge where the conflagration would consist of only shouts of joyous good fellowship. This year will be the fifth year we'll repeat that goal. C'mon men, join in, it's time to go over the mountain, again.

This issue of the Pileup commemorates the vision and commitment to excellence shown by the founders of SEDCO.

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems		
W4DXA (11 mi. NE of Mooresville)	144.93 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.00 MHz (9600 bits/second)
K4MD Charlotte, NC	144.91 MHz (1200 bits/second)	Not Available on 9600 bits/second
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com	
NA4L (Near Hillsville, VA)	144.95 MHz (1200 bits/second) Connect to NA4L ("C NA4L")	
NA4L (AR Cluster via Telnet)	cdxa.no-ip.org	
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC	
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org	
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Skyland Family Restaurant, 4544 South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC	

Working to Bring You DX

Besides those who actually go on DXpeditions to bring you DX, there are a lot of others working behind the scenes. There are those involved with preparation—designers of antennas, packers of freight containers, webmasters, fund raisers, and manufacturers of equipment. When the DXpedition is underway, pilot stations provide feedback to the on-site team to optimize the DX experience. When the final antennas come down, a QSL team is mobilized to ensure the QSL cards are promptly and accurately prepared and delivered.

In most cases the majority of funding comes from the DXpeditioners themselves. Yet for the really complex and expensive DXpeditions, help also comes in the form of equipment loaned by manufacturers and financial help. In some cases, the promise of financial help is the “seed money” which establishes the viability of the nucleus of an idea.

Financial help is provided by organizations like Northern California DX Foundation, INDEXA, YASME Foundation, ARRL, RSGB, and countless DX organizations and clubs. And, we can't forget the help offered by a multitude of individuals when sending in their QSL cards.

Individual members of organizations like INDEXA and NCDXF provide funds for disbursing to DXpeditions, but organizations like SEDCO also provide funds to assist NCDXF, INDEXA and like organizations with their work. On September 26, 2009

The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association
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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to “The Amateur’s Code” as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Dues are \$35 per year for those using the PacketCluster maintained by the Association, \$20 otherwise, payable each December. Dues are payable by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: jcw53@cornell.edu.

SEDCO will hold its fifth conference in Pigeon Forge, TN. The proceeds of the conference after expenses have been used to support youth programs, various contesting organizations, and, yes, organizations like INDEXA and NCDXF.

Who are the people behind SEDCO? People like yourself who give freely of their time by volunteering their services to bring you DX. Some of the names you might recognize are Lynn Lamb (W4NL), Rosie Lamb (KA4S), Carl Smith (N4AA), George Dominick (W4UWC), and Ted Bryant (W4NZ). Then there are those “in the wings” at SEDCO, like Dave Bower (K4PZT), serving as the “official” photographer or Dave Anderson (K4SV) serving as banquet master of ceremonies.

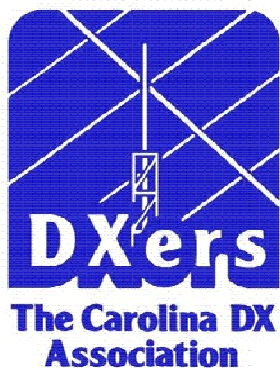
What about those volunteers in NCDXF and INDEXA? Rusty Epps (W6OAT) and Len Giraldo (K6ANP), long active as officers of NCDXF, actually were at a SEDCO conference in the past two years. From INDEXA, Gary Dixon (K4MQG), John Scott (K8YC), Bill Jennings (W4UNP), and Bob Allphin (K4UEE) attend the SEDCO conference. It should be mentioned that Lynn Lamb and Carl Smith are also Directors of INDEXA—yet another volunteered effort by your SEDCO hosts.

Well respected DXpeditioners like Bob Allphin (K4UEE), “Wild Bill” Beyer (N2WB), Joe Blackwell (AA4NN), Dave Anderson (K4SV), Jay Slough (K4ZLE) Joe Pater (W8GEX), Dennis (“Six-Meter”) Motschenbacher (K7BV), and Tom Harrell (N4XP)—the people who “put on the show” for us then come to the SEDCO conference to give us first hand reports on how they did it.

All these people working to bring you DX! Why not come to SEDCO? Experience a great conference and support DX by supporting SEDCO.

Thank you!

With this year being the 5th anniversary of the first SEDCO meeting, it is with much pleasure that the organizers of the SEDCO Conference can report that the ARRL Executive Committee has approved this years conference as an Operating Specialty Convention. The broad base of support shown by amateur radio operators across the SouthEast surely was a factor in being granted this status. Thank you.



&



The Pileup

Second Front Page



Take a bow, George (W4UWC), Rosie (KA4S), and Lynn (W4NL).

It's Really About Fellowship

By David Bower, K4PZT

It's really about fellowship, and with that concept, the idea for the SouthEastern DX and Contesting Organization (SEDCO) was born back in the winter of 2005. Lynn Lamb (W4NL) and his wife Rosie (KA4S), along with close friend George Dominick (W4UWC), had a dream about bringing together fellow DXers and Contesters for an annual event nestled in the foot hills of the Great Smoky Mountains. The event, as they conceived it, would be a relaxed and informal activity with the emphasis being on organizing a conference featuring top DXers and Contesters to share their experiences and love for this aspect of the wonderful hobby based in amateur radio. As the plan grew, it was decided to schedule this conference in conjunction with the annual TEN-TEC Hamfest so as to bring about the best of what amateur radio has to offer carefully condensed in one weekend.

In order to properly represent the two aspects of DX and contesting, DXer Carl Smith (N4AA) and contesteer Ted Bryant (W4NZ) entered the picture as the planning and organizing arms to seek out and recruit the best speakers for the conference. Carl and Ted were chosen because of their expertise, attitude and personality. It was decided, early on, that any funds generated after expenses would go for supporting DXpeditions and contesting activities. In that light, SEDCO was incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

And so, with SEDCO's scheduled date growing close this year, the annual conference will be celebrating its fifth anniversary. The concept for SEDCO as it was conceived years ago remains solidly focused on the fellowship component of DXing and contesting. The symbiotic relationship between SEDCO and the TEN-TEC Hamfest continues to be paramount and fundamental for the success.

Please enjoy the pictures from past SEDCO conferences featured on page 5 of this newsletter. For more information on SEDCO, please consult the official web page at <<http://www.SEDCO.HOMESTEAD.COM>>. Thanks to the Carolina DX Association for featuring SEDCO in this special issue of their newsletter.



SEDCO V -- Sept 26, 2009 Program...Pigeon Forge, TN

We are now “officially” an ARRL approved *Operating Specialty Convention* (SEDCO V Conference) under the sponsorship of the
SouthEastern DX and Contesting Organization, Inc.

This year we are pleased and honored to have factory representatives from ICOM, TEN TEC and YAESU on hand with a display of their equipment in the lobby area. There will also be a display of Elecraft equipment.

1100: Registration at the MainStay Convention Center.

Free snacks, water/soft drinks at the back of the room all day—help yourself anytime.

1200-1230: Introduction/Announcements/Pledge of Allegiance, and Silence for SKs.

1230-1305: Dave Anderson, K4SV: *TO5DX - St. Barthelemy*

1305-1310: Set-up - [GIVE THREE PRIZES](#)

1310-1345: Kirk Pickering, K4RO: *“Contesting 101 – How To Maximize your Score and your Fun”*

1345-1350: Set-up - [GIVE THREE PRIZES](#)

1350-1425: Josh Fisher, W4WJF/VK9DWF: *A Rookie’s Experience Down Under*

1425-1445: **BREAK** & Set-up - [GIVE THREE PRIZES](#)

1445-1520: Jim Hall, AD4EB: *RTTY Contesting*

1520-1525: Set-up - [GIVE THREE PRIZES](#)

1525-1600: Jay Slough, K4ZLE: *Trials of Installing Towers*

1600-1605: Set-up - [GIVE THREE PRIZES](#)

1605-1640: Ward Silver, NØAX: *“W1AW/KL7, I Can See UAØ from Here”
& “So You Think You Have Enough Towers”*

1640-1655: **BREAK** & Set-up - [GIVE THREE PRIZES](#)

1655-1730: Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV: *5JØBV 6 Meter DXpedition*

1730-1735: Set-up - [GIVE THREE PRIZES](#)

1735-1810: Carl Smith, N4AA/C6AAA: *“Keep Left” – BAHAMA ROADS*

1810-1820:[GIVE THREE PRIZES](#).....

B R E A K - Prepare For Dinner

1900-2030: Dinner, Recognition, Fellowship - [Prize Drawings & Raffle Drawings](#)

2030-2045: **BREAK** for resumption of convention

2045- ?? Bob Allphin, K4UEE: *Desecheo 2009 - So rare; So near...yet so far!*

[Final PRIZE Drawing & Closing Comments](#)

SEDCO in past years



Don, W4TO & Gary, K4MQG



DX MC - Carl, N4AA
& Joe, AA4NN



Contest MC - Ted, W4NZ
& Hal N4GG



Rosie, KA4S; Susan, WD4UWC and
Jane XYL of W4UWC
Working the Registration Table



INDEXA meets NCDXF



Ted, W4VHF, CDXA Pres.



Wayne, KU4V shows George, W4UWC
Where Peter One is located



Bob, K4UEE in proper attire for Peter One



Tenn. Contest Group well represented



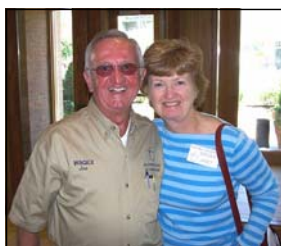
After dinner prize drawings.
Joe, AA4NN-Scott, W4PA-Ted, W4NZ



Dave, K4SV presents raffle prize
to John, K8YC (a 756PROIII)



Dave, K4SV receives A-1 Op Award



Joe, W8GEX & Janet, W8CAA

Photos by Dave Bower,
Montage composition
by Carl Smith.



That's Tom, N4XP on the right



Dennis, K7BV of Yaesu & Emily, WE4MB present the
raffle prize to Bob, K4UEE (an FT-950)



A regular attendee,
Lee, K8LEE and XYL Shelby



Dinner was great!



Movers/shakers of INDEXA, CDXA, SEDCO & TCG



The crowd assembled

Ten and Twenty Years Ago. . . .

(This material is extracted from the archives of The Pileup, available on the CDXA website under the "Newsletter" tab.—The Editor.)

Ten Years Ago:

K9AKS was overwhelmed upon learning of a 1017 QSO performance turned in by the W4BFB gang (organized by W4VHF) in 1979 when he mistakenly reported he felt he held the "modern" record for QSO and Section count from 1983 onward. . . . Editor Daso (K4ZA) provided a minimally mathematical presentation on feedpoint impedance—including resistive and reactive components—to aid in understanding this often confusing topic. . . . Haney Howell (K2XN) relived his early days in ham radio in the 1950s by discussing some of the equipment he still fondly remembers

Twenty Years Ago:

CDXAers were ecstatic that John Williams had just donated space for a digipeater for the PacketCluster system atop Toxaway Mountain near Easley, SC to create a link to Atlanta from Charlotte. In return, some sweat equity to paint the equipment building was planned for the spring. . . . Laos (XW8) was just being put back on the air. A Japanese team and a Hungarian team both had plans to give Laos to the world. . . . Charlotte was a mess in the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo. Many CDXA towers came down in this compact, intense storm that somehow maintained its strength over 140 miles from the ocean.

Welcome New Members

Even though it is summer and contesting/DXing seems to be at the nadir of activity, amateur radio operators have found their way to join the ranks of CDXA. Four separate ways of acquiring members occurred in the last five members to join us.

John Covington (W4CC) of Dallas, NC may not strictly qualify as a new member. Rather, John is one who was late in "renewing" his membership—by about 6 months. So maybe John counts for only ½ of a new member! We're glad you're back, John.

Sometimes the enthusiasm of members is so great, they are able to convince their spouses to join CDXA. Steve Sullivan (KZ2I) is one of those members. Now **Cecil Ann Sullivan (KJ4KJB)** of Charlotte, NC is listed on the membership roll as a new member. Welcome Cecil Ann!

Jerry Moore (AE4PB) of Fort Mill, SC was a member

of CDXA as late as 2000, but sometime in that time period, Jerry moved on to other things, and we had not seen him since—until August 2009 when Jerry reen-gaged with us. We have some catching up to do with Jerry as to what he's been doing with his spare time since 2000.

Something in the air must be stirring old members to return. In late August, **Hal Turley (W8HC, ex KC8FS)** of Huntington, WV returned to us after last seeing him in 2005. Could it be the lack of sunspots? Maybe some are starting to think the old shaman—N4ZC—can do an incantation to turn things around and they want to be on the ground floor by belonging to CDXA. Hmmmmm!

Finally, in **Frank Kopenec (AI4RF)** of Cherryville, NC we have what we traditionally think of as a "new member". If Frank has been in our numbers before this time, his presence predates 1996 which is as far back as this editor's memory goes.

Regardless of how each of these folks became members, we're very happy that they've chosen to join us. Welcome to all of you from the Membership of CDXA.

Awaiting YOU at SEDCO

In addition to a wonderful program and good fellowship, many sponsors have donated gifts to the doorprize drawings, and since SEDCO's purpose is to raise funds for DXpedition endeavors, youth programs and contesting, Icom America and Yaesu have once again donated two great radios for Grand Prize fundraising raffles. This year, Yaesu has provided an FT-2000, and Icom has donated an IC-7600, both pictured below:



**Yaesu
FT-2000**



**ICOM
IC-7600**

SED CO—A Founder's History

By Lynn Lamb, W4NL

In early 2005, Rosie, KA4S, and I became aware of our age (again!) and reflected on how good ham radio had been to us. Briefly, without question it provided opportunities for me during my career but more important, it has brought us great friends for many years.

Rosie, KA4S, gave me more joy than she realized when she got her novice ticket in 1969 (12 years into our marriage) becoming WA3NGS and later KA4S in 1978. She is also a DXer and Contester.

So in our desire to pay back somewhat, we looked to a dear personal friend, George Dominick, W4UWC, to join us in our effort. We founded SED CO, held our first convention in 2005 and became incorporated as a non-profit in 2008.

All we wanted to do was create an atmosphere where hams with an interest in DX and Contesting could meet in a nice place to share their experiences in ham radio and have a good time...nothing more than fellowship. We never considered making a profit, and in fact our rule is to donate all resources after expenses are met. We are holding SED CO V at the end of this month, after great success with SED CO I-IV. Our success is due to many things. First, Ten-Tec has their popular hamfest the same weekend, making this a ham's dream weekend. Second, the speakers are incredible and come at their own expense. Third but not least, our attendees keep SED CO growing by not only attending but offering their experiences and passing the word. We also try to promote youth in our hobby; so many things happen during this weekend. It's fellowship in a frame.

Many companies and individuals support this event by donating prizes, and generously I might add. Because of this we are able to give checks to NCDXF, INDEXA, DXpeditions, and other efforts for DX and Contesting before we leave the event. The clubs and organizations are also very generous and show up in great numbers. The CDXA, SEDXC, TCG, SWODXA, NCDXCC, NJDXA, ETDXA, SMARC, Magnolia DX Association, and more support SED CO big time.

So Rosie, George and I are living our dream. We are not running for anything but honestly trying to provide this event for our beloved hobby.

Carl (N4AA) and Ted (W4NZ) have been the leaders to run the forums/presentations from day one and still do the job better than anyone could possibly expect. A special thank you goes out to Dave (K4SV), a SED CO sup-

porter since the beginning and our fantastic emcee during dinner. Bob (K4UEE) has been a rock for SED CO from day one. Thanks also to Jane, XYL of George (W4UWC), Susan (WD4UWC), their daughter and SED CO's attorney, and Carole, XYL of David (K4PZT) for their much need help. We have also been blessed with great help/support from W9IXX, W4KJ, KC8CKW, W4VHF, K4LVV, WB4E, W8GEX, W8CAA, W4PA and so many more who work tirelessly to make SED CO a success. These volunteers are a must and SED CO has them big time.

So we have this thing called SED CO each year during the last weekend in September (same time as the great Ten-Tec hamfest) at the MainStay Suites in Pigeon Forge, TN. The facility and rooms are great. The setting is calm and serene. The speakers are the best, and no one anywhere can say otherwise.

This is our story as to why there is a SED CO and why it will continue long after we old duffers are long gone. We have learned from the California affair which we've attended in the past, the W9DXCC, W0DXCC, Dayton's SWODXA wonderful efforts and others. Rosie and I had a part with DXPO in the DC area during the 70s, and we never forgot the great times we had working with the likes of Stu, W2GHK, (CW Forever!) SK, W3ZN SK and K3AO SK, (and I miss them too), K4FJ, N4TX, K3ZR, K3ZO, W4KFC SK, W3GRF SK (one of my Elmers), etc. Rosie and I are both members of PVRC and past NCDXA members.

Peace..... Rosie (KA4S); George (W4UWC), and Lynn (W4NL)



Ted (W4NZ) and Carl (N4AA) are intertwined in SED CO history along with dozens of others. Thanks to all of you!



CWAC 2009 – CDXA Needs More Participants

Dick Williams, W3OA



It's time to get ready for the CQ World Wide Contests and CDXA's CWAC (Contest Within a Contest). The phone contest is the weekend of October 23, CW the weekend of November 27. We are offering a lot of prizes to encourage you to participate in CWAC and thus contribute to CDXA's CQWW Club Score. The Outback Steakhouse gift cards have been very popular prizes in the last three years. But if the Outback isn't one of your favorite restaurants you can use the same card at Carrabba's Italian Grill and Bonefish Grill.

Our CQWW Club Scores for the last several years are shown below. You can see we finally made it to the top ten in 2007 but fell back out last year. We need everyone's help to regain our top ten standing. If just ten more members had each made 250 QSOs in the SSB contest and 250 QSOs in the CW contest we would have been in the top ten in 2008.

Year	CDXA Score	Rank in USA
2002	17,364,657	20
2003	15,383,214	19
2004	23,246,423	15
2005	17,672,958	18
2006	25,680,386	12
2007	34,784,070	8
2008	28,284,340	12

There are prizes for both serious efforts and more casual operations:

1st place prizes – Each winner can choose a trophy or a \$50 Outback Steak House gift card. These will be awarded in the categories listed below. An individual can only win one trophy/gift card.

Top combined phone and CW score
Top phone score, low power
Top CW score, low power
Top Multi-op score

Top phone score
Top CW score
Top DXpedition score

For 1000 or more QSOs total in the phone and CW contests—Each winner can choose a trophy or a \$25 gift card for Outback Steak House.

For 500 or more QSOs—A photo printed CDXA certificate and an embroidered patch with the CDXA logo.

For 250 or more QSOs—An embroidered patch with the CDXA logo.

Only members whose scores are eligible for the club competition as defined in the contest rules can win a gift card or a trophy. That means their station must be within 275 km of our club center or be on a DXpedition and live within that radius. We can choose where our club center is so don't count yourself out just because you are a little more than 275 km from Charlotte. The rules are available in full at http://www.cqww.com/2009_Rules_cqww.pdf or page 32 of the September CQ. All CDXA members are eligible for the CDXA certificate and patch.

Prizes will be based on your claimed score and will be presented at the Christmas/Annual Meeting dinner.

Let me know if you have any questions, suggestions, or need help in preparing for CQWW.

And please let me know if you are planning a DXpedition for CQWW.

Dick Williams, W3OA; w3oa@adelphia.net; (704) 658-0915

CDXA Scores in 2009 ARRL International DX Phone Contest

Dick Williams, W3OA

The final results of this year's ARRL International DX phone contest have been published. Listed below, in alphabetical order, are the CDXA members who scored in the top half of their class. The last column shows the member's place in his class in the geographic area shown and the number of entrants in that class from that area.

Additionally, K4ZA was one of the operators at W3LPL, a multi-multi entrant that placed first of 14 U.S. entrants. And K1MMH and KU4V were operators at PJ2T, the multi-multi that set an all time record for South America and was number one in the World this year.

The ARRL also published the results of the 2009 Club Competition. CDXA's total score in the CW and phone contests combined was 10,157,613 points. This placed us number seven of the 36 clubs in the Medium Category – not as good as our third place showing last year.

Call	Final Score	Area	Class	Place/No in Class
AA4V	39,951	South Carolina	Single Op, High Power, 80 meters	1/2, also 5 th US&VE
AD4IE	64,512	North Carolina	Single Op, High Power, All Bands	7/13
K4QVK	12,669	North Carolina	Single Op, Low Power, 15 meters	1/2
N4PQX	426,114	North Carolina	Single Op, High Power, All Bands	1/12, also 3 rd Southeast Region
N4ZC	1,069,107	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	1/69
W3GQ*	839,700	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands*	2/69
W3OA	708,948	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	4/69
W4WNT	36,720	North Carolina	Single Op, Low Power, All Bands	5/14
WA3GNW	31,590	South Carolina	Single Op, Low Power, All Bands	4/8

* The ARRL scores mistakenly show W3GQ as Single Op, High Power. He was actually assisted.

Enjoy TEN-TEC Hamfest with SEDCO Event

If you need another reason to head off to SEDCO, the Ten-Tec Factory Hamfest will be held Friday, September 25 and Saturday, September 26. Meet the factory folks, take a tour of the factory, and enjoy a FREE hamfest. Even the tailgating is free. There will be a CW copying contest on Friday evening and hourly door prizes on Saturday—but you'll have to leave by noon to make the start of the SEDCO conference.

Ten-Tec will have their usual offering of their own new and lightly used gear for sale as well as other well known vendors in the factory store.

Parking will be a little different this year because of some development on adjacent property, but you can learn all you need to know at: <http://radio.tentec.com/hamfest/>



Christmas '09 Won't Be The Same

(The following item was extracted from "THE ARRL LETTER", Vol. 28, No. 32, dated August 14, 2009.)

Mickey "Santa Claus" Hicks, WO6T (SK): Mickey Hicks, WO6T, known to many amateurs and their children as Santa Claus—passed away Sunday, August 9. He was 79. For the past 38 years, Hicks, a ham for almost 50 years and a long-time ARRL member and Amateur Radio instructor, would get on the air for 10 days each December as W6S (Whiskers-6-Santa). ARRL Youth Editor Duncan MacLachlan, KU0DM, profiled Hicks in December 2008. "The Amateur Radio community has been quick to embrace the W6S operation." Mickey says that the first year operating as W6S was 'a hit with the operators of all ages and their children.' Mickey noted that most children are a bit apprehensive of talking over the radio, let alone to Santa! Hicks told the ARRL in 2001 that his Santa's Workshop has been a great ham radio recruiting tool. One of his most memorable experiences was when a young girl he'd once spoken with on the air as Santa came by with her ham ticket in hand to thank him in person for getting her interested. "I had tears in my eyes, of course," he said. -- Thanks to "The Daily DX" for providing some information for this story.

CQ Publishes Results of the 2008 CQWW CW Contest

Dick Williams, W3OA

CQ has published the final results of last year's CQ World Wide Contest. CDXA placed twelfth among the 56 U.S. entries in the club competition. Our score was 28,284,340 points. That's pretty respectable when you consider some of the clubs that beat us are a lot bigger than CDXA. But last year we scored 34,784,070 points. So we can do better this year. See the accompanying article in this issue announcing this year's CDXA CW Contest Within A Contest (CWAC).

This was the third year we have entered the team contesting competition. CDXA's five-man CW team (AA4S, IS0/K7QB, N2TU, N4ZC, and WA4DOU) placed ninth world wide with 5,391,638 points.

Listed below, in alphabetical order, are the calls of CDXA members who scored in the top half of their class as listed in CQ. The last column shows the entrant's place in his class and the number of entrants in that class. Those calls show in bold face will receive certificates from CQ.

August's *Pileup* has the SSB results.

Call	Final Score	Area	Class	Place/No in Class
AA4S	843,228	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	8/73
IS0/K7QB (IN3QBR)	1,112,319	Sardinia	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	1/3
N2TU	1,086,016	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	3/73
N4UFP	43,766	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power, All Bands	30/73
N4ZC	1,571,748	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	2/73
W3OA	977,552	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	4/73
W4NL	116,572	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, 20 Meters	1/2
W6IZT	100,584	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, 80 Meters	1/4
WA3GNW	109,098	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power, All Bands	19/73
WA4DOU	708,327	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power, All Bands	6/73

CDXA Barbeque for 2009

The Annual CDXA Barbeque is just around the corner. It will happen before the next issue of the *Pileup* comes out so don't delay putting the date on your calendar. Here are the details:

What: Annual CDXA Barbeque

Where: Ric Porter's Aluminum Farm at 1080 Riverside Drive; Rock Hill, SC (Directions Below)

Why: To have a good time and meet fellow DXers you might not often see.

When: Saturday, October 10, 2009 at 5:30PM for social hour, dinner served at 6:30PM.

Cost: \$10 per person, payable at the event. CDXA will provide soft drinks, beer, and wine. Plus, members are asked to bring your favorite "potluck" side salad **or** dessert to share.

What else? Dinner will be catered by Ric Porter and will consist of BBQ Pork, Chicken, Cole Slaw, BBQ Beans, and Rolls. Plates, utensils, and napkins will be provided.

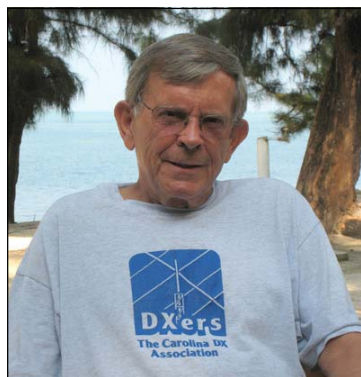
Please make a reservation with Vice President Paul Ponak by October 7 at pponak@carolina.rr.com letting him know how many will be in your party.

Directions: From I-77 in South Carolina, take exit #83, Sutton Road. Go .27 miles, then turn left on Sutton Road South (SC-49) and go .67 miles. Turn right on Cherry Road (US-21), go .66 miles. Turn right on Riverside Drive and go .21 miles. Park and join the QRM.



A Few Words about Joe, AA4NN. . . .

(Joe Blackwell, AA4NN is a soft spoken man. In fact, he doesn't "talk" at all except via a CW key. So, when CDXA's "Roving Reporter" asked Joe for an interview to learn of Joe's past and future DXpedition exploits, he requested that he be able to write his own story. Joe heads off to activate Midway Island as a member of the K4M team in October, 2009. Here's his story, in his own words, dit dit —The Roving Reporter)



In 1955 Joe was a high speed CW operator in the US Air Force when he took the conditional exam to get his Amateur Radio License, K5GFN. He soon found himself rag chewing on 40m CW using a Strategic Air Command survival ra-

dio with 10 watts into a long wire. Later while a student at Louisiana Tech he built a QRP 6AG7 CW transmitter from the 1957 Handbook. He told the dormitory "house mother" the 6AG7 was a converter for his Hallicrafters SX-99 that allowed him to hear signals from Sputnik which was all the rage at that time. Later, he built a WRL Globe Chief CW transmitter, and homebrewed an 813 grounded grid linear amplifier, all while living in the dormitory.

Upon graduation from La Tech in 1960 Joe worked a while in Shreveport, Louisiana, then moved to Paramus, New Jersey, for a job with ITT. In 1963 he moved to Charlotte, NC, and joined Celanese Corporation as a computer systems analyst. Joe soon met Gary Dixon, K4MQG, who invited him over for some radio time which inspired Joe to get re-examined for a ham license and to reclaim his old call sign. Deciding in 1977 that he would be forever in the Carolinas he traded K5GFN/4 for AA4NN.

Continuous rag chewing on 40 meters led Joe to meet Jim, K1BNQ (now K1PX), which evolved into a weekly sked that continued for nearly 19 years. Jim gifted Joe with a W9INN shortened dipole for 160M so the two could continue their skeds on top band, plus compete with one another in the various 160M contests, including their favorite, the Stew Perry Distance Challenge.

Aware of Joe's 160M activity, Tom, N4XP, introduced

him to Paul Pai, BV4FH, who in 2001 was organizing a DXpedition to Pratas Island, BQ9P. Paul needed a 160M operator, and in the end, it was Joe and CDXA member Ken Cannaday, W4NZC, who joined the team to participate in a new IOTA, BV9L, in addition to the primary target, BQ9P. Many of you know about CDXA member Mauro Tommazoni, IN3QBR, perhaps even met him during his visits to the Carolinas. Mauro was on a team for Myanmar, XY3C in 2002, when he introduced Joe to Frank, DL4KQ, who was organizing the effort. Frank welcomed Joe to the team. CDXA member Fabrizio Vedovelli, IN3ZNR, was also a member of XY3C, and it was he who organized the famous African Double Jump in 2003 which included an operation from Botswana and Lesotho in addition to some night and day safaris into Kruger National Park. The group consisted of Joe, Fabrizio, and Aldo, IK2ANI. Joe operated as A25NN and 7P8NN.

In early 2004 Frank, DL4KQ, was busy organizing a major trip to Banaba, T33C, and invited Joe to join the team. Two other groups had their eyes on the same target, so in the end these three groups combined into one and there began the difficult logistics of getting the team and all the equipment to the island. The staging area for Banaba was the island of Tarawa where Joe operated as T30NN, going to and coming from Banaba. Joe had the callsign T33NN but did not operate as such on Banaba because he felt some DXers might confuse his call with the DXpedition call, T33C. After Banaba, Margaret (Joe's XYL-Ed.) met Joe in Fiji for a two week period of relaxation where Joe occasionally worked the radio as 3D2NN.

CDXA member Chuck Gray, W4GMY, had been to Swaziland in early 2004 and wanted to return again to try for DXCC from there. He and Joe teamed up for a week in Swaziland with Joe as 3DA0NN, followed by a week in Mozambique with Joe as C91NN, followed by a multi-single effort in the 2004 CQ WW CW contest as C91F. They took first place in Mozambique and won top score for all of Africa.

The year 2005 was spent in frustration for Frank, DL4KQ, as he worked closely with the various departments of the Indian government seeking permission to operate from the Andaman Islands, VU4. Finally in 2006 permission was granted in the form of an Amateur Radio Hamfest. The Indian government invited hams from all around the world to participate in the hamfest, and these foreigners would also be authorized to operate

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ham radio from Port Blair in the Andamans. All participants were to prefix their Indian callsign with VU4AN. For example, Joe's call at VU4 was VU4AN/VU3JLW, although in mainland India Joe operated from Hyderabad simply as VU3JLW.

In 2006 Joe and Margaret visited with friends in Melkbosstrand near Capetown, South Africa, and at Silverfontein near Springbok in the vast Namaqualand. These visits were followed by a week at their friend's beach cottage on McDougals Bay in the Western Cape on the Atlantic coast near the Namibian border. Margaret prepared a leg of lamb for their Thanksgiving dinner while Joe worked CQ WW CW as ZS3NN.

In 2007 due to tremendous effort on the part of Frank, DL4KQ, the Indian government again allowed foreign operators to attend a Hamfest in the Lakshadweep Islands, VU7, and operate in concert with others to be located on three different islands. All participants would use the callsign VU7RG. Once again Joe traveled with his friend Frank to VU7 for a very successful DXpedition.

It was back in August of 2005 when that pesky Tom Harrell, N4XP, telephoned Joe out of the blue asking if he would be interested in going to Scarborough Reef. Joe's response was quite to the point, "Hell yes." Much activity followed. The trip was on, the trip was off, on again, off again, until 2007 when the trip finally became a reality. Joe happily worked his 14 hour shifts in the dark sitting on top of a rock in the middle of the South China Sea.

In 2008 Chuck, W4GMY, and Joe joined the TI9K team for Cocos Island which later became the TI9KK team. Joe, as you may know, works CW exclusively, so why would he promise another Joe, W8GEX, he would activate 60M on phone from TI9KK. Good question, but it turns out that Joe met W8GEX during a SEDCO conference and admits that anything W8GEX asks of you, you just do it because he's such a nice fellow. Later in 2008 the two Joe's teamed up for a most successful trip to St. Barths, TO5DX, along with operators Janet, W8CAA, Dave, K4SV, Phil, W9IXX, and Jim, K0RH.

In the early days of February 2009, W8GEX was getting antsy for another trip. Of course, AA4NN is always ready to go so plans were laid for a place W8GEX knew about on Eleuthera Island in the Bahamas, and he already had the C6DX callsign. Lynn, W4NL, and Carl, N4AA, were invited to join the team. Lynn was unable

to go, but Carl happily accepted. Writing about DX for lo these many years, Carl finally got to BE DX. . . . as C6AAA, a terrific call. Janet operated as C6AYL while the two Joes, one SSB and one CW, worked C6DX. Margaret was along for moral support and prepared scrumptious meals for this motley crew.

W8GEX had worked diligently to get permission to take a small team to operate from Midway Island, KH4. In 2009 the US Fish and Wildlife Services opened the door to amateur radio by inviting all interested hams to make reservations for the available 19 beds, a limit imposed by the bed keepers on Midway. Camping is not allowed. W8GEX tells AA4NN to call and reserve a bed and while Joe is pondering this idea and thinking he will call the next day, all of a sudden there's that pesky N4XP calling AA4NN to say get your bed NOW! Thus, Joe became the 14th member of the Midway 2009 team, K4M, and is eagerly anticipating another exciting DXpedition, October 9 to 19, 2009.

CDXA Supports K4M Effort

Everyone who knows Joe Blackwell knows that Joe doesn't know which end of a microphone he's supposed to talk into, but give him a key and that's another story. So, when the officers of CDXA found out that Joe—a long-standing member of CDXA—had his room reservation on Midway and was to be one of the K4M team, it was automatic that the Carolina DX Association would offer financial support to the Midway Island DXpedition team.

We're glad that over 30 organizations and many individuals also have offered support to bring us all this much needed entity. You can learn all about the Midway DXpedition at <http://www.midway2009.com/>. It will all start on October 9.

Pun Pfun

Let a little levity into your life!

No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

In a democracy, it's your vote that counts. In feudalism, it's your count that votes.



DX King News

By Dick Williams, W3OA



For those who are just “tuning in”, our DX King Contest is CDXA’s version of CQ Magazine’s DX Marathon. Contest details are in the October, 2008 issue of *The Pileup* available in the archives on the CDXA website. There are still four months left to add to your DX King totals. Even if you are just starting now you still have more than enough time to get the 150 points needed, enter the raffle, and win the 26-inch TV. The CQWW DX contests at the end of September (RTTY), October (SSB), and November (CW) will be great opportunities to add to your score. See the article in this issue announcing the CWAC prizes. You can “double dip” in both DX King and CWAC at the same time.

Below are the scores I have as of August 31:

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
N4ZC	Unlimited	258	40	298
K4MQG	Unlimited	249	40	289
AA4SC	Unlimited	223	40	263
W4HG	Unlimited	222	40	262
W3OA	Unlimited	222	38	260
K4YR	Unlimited	217	40	257
W3GQ	Unlimited	218	39	257
N4PQX	Unlimited	206	40	246
WB4ROA	Unlimited	201	38	239
KZ2I	Unlimited	190	40	230
N1GC	Unlimited	185	38	223
W3ZL	Formula	172	35	207
K4DGJ	Unlimited	158	37	195
K8YC	Unlimited	152	35	187
N2TU	Unlimited	149	35	184
K4ESE	Unlimited	150	32	182
K1MIJ	Unlimited	143	29	172
WA3GNW	Formula	126	30	156
N4UFP	Unlimited	108	29	137
NK0S	Unlimited	101	29	130
WB2RHM	Unlimited	81	24	105
N4QVM*	Unlimited	77	25	102
W4WNT*	Formula	81	21	102

* New addition to the list this month.

Don’t forget to send me (w3oa@roadrunner.com) your DX marathon scores as of the last day of each month after your score reaches 100.

“Most Wanted” Survey Now Open

The annual “Most Wanted” DX survey conducted by DX Publishing, Inc. is now ready for your input at <http://www.dxpub.com>. The link to the survey is at the bottom of the home page. The survey will remain open for input through October 15, 2009.

Online collection of data has streamlined processing of the highly anticipated survey results while significantly reducing the data entry burden at DX Publishing. Roger Western (G3SXW) and Tim Kirby (G4VXE) have lent a hand to expand the depth and breadth of the reporting made possible by enhanced data collection.

The survey does not list all DXCC entities. However, Publisher Carl Smith (N4AA) advises that you may add a needed country on YOUR list by using the COMMENTS box on the survey.

The results of the survey are reported in the January/February issue of DX Magazine each year. DXpeditioners and organizations providing financial support to DXpeditions use the survey results to set their priorities. Make YOUR needs known! All are welcome to vote.

Adventure of a Lifetime

Imagine being 20 something years of age and getting invited to join a group of strangers on an exotic expedition to a place on this Earth that not many ever get a chance to visit. That’s pretty much what Josh Fisher, W4WJF, experienced shortly before he joined a group of German amateur radio operators destined for Willis Island to operate as VK9DWX. Well, almost. Josh did have to write an essay explaining why he wanted to go.

Many of us in CDXA have watched fellow member Josh grow up before our eyes in recent years. You can hear Josh tell his story about Willis Island at the SEDCO Convention on September 26.



W4WJF tries to tame the pileup at VK9DWX.



The Back Page

The “**Overmountain Men**” of the 21st Century. See Page 1.

Who are those who bring us DX, anyway? Page 2.

What’s this thing called SEDCO all about? **Dave Bower** gives us his view. See Page 3.

SEDCO Conference Agenda gives us a glimpse of what’s in store in Pigeon Forge. See Page 4.

Pictorial album of past SEDCO events. See Page 5.

WHY SEDCO—a founders view from Lynn Lamb, W4NL. See Page 7.

Contest Within a Contest (CWAC) set for 2009. See Page 8.

A few good men from CDXA took on the **ARRL 2009 International Phone DX Contest**. See Page 9.

Ten-Tec Factory Hamfest offers an enjoyable prelude to the SEDCO Conference with plant tours and big flea market. See Page 9.

2008 CQWW CW Contest Results result in a good showing for CDXA members. See Page 10.

Annual CDXA Barbeque awaits you in October. Plan for it now! See Page 10.

Joe Blackwell, AA4NN retraces his radio “career”. See Page 11.

DX King Contest has spurred a lot of activity despite poor propagation. Who are the leaders? See Page 13.

DX Publishing’s “**Most Wanted Survey**” is now open. Let your needs be known. See Page 13.

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First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify W3ZL at once, please.